

POLL AGENT GUIDE

Kansas elections are conducted in an open and transparent manner. Interested individuals and groups are welcome to observe election proceedings at polling locations, at local election offices and at county and state canvasses. State law recognizes the need for public observation of election proceedings through authorized poll agents, commonly known as poll watchers.

The following individuals are automatically considered a poll agent: 1.) state or county party chair; 2.) chair of a committee formed to support or oppose a question-submitted election; 3.) candidate for office, including a write-in candidate for statewide office who has filed an affidavit of write-in candidacy with the Secretary of State; 4.) precinct committeeman or committeewoman. In addition, a person may be appointed as a poll agent by any of the aforementioned individuals as long as they have not previously appointed another individual to the same polling place.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Appointments must be made in writing on Form PA provided online by the Secretary of State's office at sos.ks.gov. Forms may be filed up to and on election day. Completed forms must be filed with the local election office.

POLL AGENT REQUIREMENTS

Poll agents must carry the completed appointment form and produce it upon request by an election officer. If a candidate or precinct committee person is acting as a poll agent, they must carry identification verifying their position as supplied by the local election office. Poll agents must be a registered Kansas voter or a member of a candidate's family. All poll agents must act in accordance with policies adopted by the county election officer and the polling place supervising judge. Poll agents must comply with state laws and regulations and local rules. Poll agents are required to wear a badge identifying them as an election observer by wearing a badge containing the word "observer" in 32-point type or larger.

Polling agents may observe the voting process at the polling place they are appointed to and can also observe county and state canvasses. They may request to be shown a ballot at the original canvass on election day. Appointed poll agents must be at least 14 years old.

Polling agents may not be within three feet of a voting booth or a table used by an election board. They may not touch or handle a ballot or participate in the administration of ballots or ballot counting. Polling agents are prohibited from deterring or obstructing any voter entering or exiting a polling place, any voter while voting or an election board worker performing their official duties.

Questions: call **1-800-8683** or visit sos.ks.gov.